



October 27, 2021

The Honorable Omar Alhabra, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Alhabra,

I would like to bring to your attention an urgent issue regarding the many Canadian airports still waiting for permission to resume international flights.

It is encouraging to see that progress is being made with regards to a return to normal for international travel, but for the remaining airports still impacted by pandemic restrictions, it's imperative that the government work with airports toward the goal of lifting restrictions that affect the resumption of their regular international flights.

While we are fortunate that there are 10 airports in Canada who can currently accept international arrivals, there are still approximately 20 airports awaiting permission. Restoring international routes to these airports is crucial for their local economies. These airports are essential for tourism recovery across Canada as many provide direct access to major tourism destinations or are considered regional gateways to more remote locations. With no certainty from the government on when these restrictions will be lifted, carriers are being forced to cancel flights planned well into the new year.

Restoring the ability to accept international flights is paramount for rebuilding our communities, the aviation sector, connectivity, and tourism as we come out of this pandemic. I request that you take immediate action and work with airports to remove this restriction as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Kusie".

Stephanie Kusie, M.P.
Shadow Minister for Transport